

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 29, 2004

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR)	DOCKET NO.
APPROVAL OF GAS TRANSPORTATION)	03-00540
AGREEMENT WITH THE GOODYEAR TIRE AND)	
RUBBER COMPANY)	

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO CONVENE STATUS CONFERENCE AND
RE-SUSPENDING SPECIAL CONTRACT FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY DAYS**

On September 30, 2003, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") filed a *Petition of Atmos Energy Corporation for Approval of Gas Transportation Agreement with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company*. At a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on October 21, 2003, a majority of the panel voted to suspend the special contract through January 29, 2004 and appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as the Hearing Officer in this proceeding to hear preliminary matters prior to the Hearing, to rule on any petition(s) for intervention, and to set a procedural schedule to completion.¹ On January 29, 2004, the Hearing Officer re-suspended the special contract through March 29, 2004.

The *Petition to Commence a Contested Case and to Intervene* filed by the Staff of the Energy and Water Division of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority was granted on March 22,

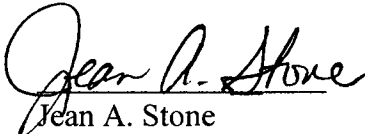
¹ Director Ron Jones abstained from voting on the motion. See Transcript of Authority Conference, pp 67-73 (October 21, 2003)

2004. The parties were also requested to propose a protective order and a procedural schedule prior to the scheduling of a status conference. On March 26, 2004, the parties filed a proposed protective order and a *Joint Motion to Convene Status Conference*. In that motion, the parties state that they intend to meet informally to explore the possibility of submitting an agreed order which may resolve this docket and, therefore, they submit that the filing of a formal procedural schedule would be premature at this time. The Hearing Officer finds that for the reasons set forth by the parties, the *Joint Motion to Convene Status Conference* should be granted.

The suspension of the special contract is due to expire on March 29, 2004. Based upon the time frame for the convening of a status conference, the Hearing Officer finds the special contract should be suspended for an additional thirty (30) days.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. A status conference is scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ground Floor Hearing Room, Tennessee Regulatory Authority, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee.
2. The special contract is suspended for an additional thirty (30) days from March 30, 2004 through April 28, 2004.


Jean A. Stone
Hearing Officer